

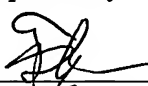
**REMARKS**

Claim 8 has been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to conform to current U.S. practice. The amendment has been made to reduce filing fees and to place the claim in proper U.S. format, and has not been made for any reason related to patentability of the claims. Claim 18 has also been amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In view of the above amendments, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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